Sūrah al-Balad[1792]

سُورَةُ البَلَدِ

Bismillāhir-Raḥmānir-Raḥeem

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

1. I swear by this city [i.e., Makkah] –
لَا أُقْسِمُ بِهَٰذَا الْبَلَدِ ﴿١﴾

2. And you, [O Muḥammad], are free of restriction in this city –
وَأَنتَ حِلٌّ بِهَٰذَا الْبَلَدِ ﴿٢﴾

3. And [by] the father[1793] and that which was born [of him],
وَوَالِدٍ وَمَا وَلَدَ ﴿٣﴾

4. We have certainly created man into hardship.
لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنسَانَ فِي كَبَدٍ ﴿٤﴾

5. Does he think that never will anyone overcome him?
أَيَحْسَبُ أَن لَّن يَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ أَحَدٌ ﴿٥﴾

6. He says, "I have spent wealth in abundance."
يَقُولُ أَهْلَكْتُ مَالًا لُّبَدًا ﴿٦﴾

7. Does he think that no one has seen him?
أَيَحْسَبُ أَن لَّمْ يَرَهُ أَحَدٌ ﴿٧﴾

8. Have We not made for him two eyes?
أَلَمْ نَجْعَل لَّهُ عَيْنَيْنِ ﴿٨﴾

9. And a tongue and two lips?
وَلِسَانًا وَشَفَتَيْنِ ﴿٩﴾

10. And have shown him the two ways?[1794]
وَهَدَيْنَاهُ النَّجْدَيْنِ ﴿١٠﴾

11. But he has not broken through the difficult pass.[1795]
فَلَا اقْتَحَمَ الْعَقَبَةَ ﴿١١﴾

12. And what can make you know what is [breaking through] the difficult pass?
وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْعَقَبَةُ ﴿١٢﴾

13. It is the freeing of a slave
فَكُّ رَقَبَةٍ ﴿١٣﴾

1792 *Al-Balad*: The City.

1793 Said to be Adam (upon him be peace).

1794 Of good and evil.

1795 i.e., the steep incline or obstacle. In other words, he has not spent in the cause of Allāh but only boasts of spending in front of others.

14. Or feeding on a day of severe hunger

أَوْ إِطْعَٰمٌ فِي يَوْمٍ ذِي مَسْغَبَةٍ ﴿١٤﴾

15. An orphan of near relationship

يَتِيمًا ذَا مَقْرَبَةٍ ﴿١٥﴾

16. Or a needy person in misery

أَوْ مِسْكِينًا ذَا مَتْرَبَةٍ ﴿١٦﴾

17. And then being among those who believed and advised one another to patience and advised one another to compassion.

ثُمَّ كَانَ مِنَ ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا۟ وَتَوَاصَوْا۟ بِٱلصَّبْرِ وَتَوَاصَوْا۟ بِٱلْمَرْحَمَةِ ﴿١٧﴾

18. Those are the companions of the right.[1796]

أُو۟لَٰٓئِكَ أَصْحَٰبُ ٱلْمَيْمَنَةِ ﴿١٨﴾

19. But they who disbelieved in Our signs – those are the companions of the left.[1797]

وَٱلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا۟ بِـَٔايَٰتِنَا هُمْ أَصْحَٰبُ ٱلْمَشْـَٔمَةِ ﴿١٩﴾

20. Over them will be fire closed in.[1798]

عَلَيْهِمْ نَارٌ مُّؤْصَدَةٌ ﴿٢٠﴾

[1796] Or "the companions of good fortune," i.e., those who receive their records in their right hands and proceed to Paradise.

[1797] Or "the companions of ill fortune," i.e., those who receive their records in their left hands and proceed to Hell.

[1798] The cover over Hell will be sealed and locked, containing its fire and its inhabitants.